

W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.
Chair

Joseph C. Wiley
Vice Chair

Charlotte A. Bollinger
Secretary

James E. Purcell
Commissioner of
Higher Education



Mark T. Abraham
Raymond J. Brandt
Robert J. Bruno
Joel E. Dupré
Joseph P. Farr
William H. Fenstermaker
Chris D. Gorman
Robert W. Levy
Richard A. Lipsey
Edward D. Markle
Roy O. Martin III
Albert D. Sam II
Matthew L. Jewell, Student

BOARD OF REGENTS

P. O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253, FAX (225) 342-9318
www.regents.state.la.us

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 12, 2013

TO: (Insert Name), Principal
(Insert Name), Mathematics Teacher
(Insert Name), English Teacher

FROM: Dr. Jeanne M. Burns
Associate Commissioner of Teacher
and Leadership Initiatives

SUBJECT: Transitional Course Pilot

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Transitional Course Pilot that is being implemented by the Louisiana Board of Regents and Louisiana Department of Education as part of a consortium formed by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). Original states in the consortium have developed two transitional courses in the areas of mathematics and English language arts through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The transitional courses have been designed to help high school English language arts and mathematics teachers interpret and teach the Common Core State Standards. The ultimate goal is to effectively ensure that high school students will be ready to enter entry-level credit-bearing college courses in English and mathematics.

As you are aware, the Louisiana Board of Regents has obtained a Core to College Optional Activity Grant from the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors to provide support for three school districts to enter into a partnership with three or more community colleges/universities to pilot the transitional courses. The three school districts that have agreed to participate are Calcasieu Parish School District, Iberville Parish School District, and Jefferson Parish School District. Please read the attached document that provides more information about the responsibilities of the partners.

This grant will allow three high school ELA teachers and three high school math teachers to receive training from SREB to pilot the transitional courses in their high schools during fall 2013 and spring 2014 with high school seniors who obtained ACT scores of 15-18 in English or ACT scores of 15-19 in mathematics. The training will take place on July 15-18 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Travel expenses will be provided through the grant and SREB. Our office will submit

the names of all teachers who will be participating in the training. We will need verification that the two participating teachers in each district will be able to participate in the training on those dates.

As participants, you will have the opportunity to thoroughly examine and critique each of the mathematics and literacy transitional courses to ensure content validity. You will have an opportunity to provide an *immediate* review and submit feedback to our office by April 25, 2013. You will also have an opportunity to provide feedback after piloting the transitional courses during 2013-14. For the *immediate review*, please go to the following URL to locate the transitional course for mathematics or the transitional course for English.

Math Transitional Course: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d0mz6se4o8do1ig/r_BdMTdehN.

Disciplinary Literacy Transitional Course: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dszwnpikshx84v0/mmvbIpbzfP>

Within the Dropbox, you will find documents that provide the course content. In addition, you will see an item called Rubric for Standards Based Units. Please use that rubric to provide feedback and e-mail the completed form to Jared Avery (jared.avery@la.gov). Jared will compile all of the feedback and prepare a master document that contains your feedback and feedback from others (e.g., higher education, Louisiana Department of Education) that the State will submit to SREB.

For the purposes of financial support, the Core to College grant will be able to provide each teacher a \$6,000 stipend to be used during the time period of April 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014 for time spent beyond the regular school day for activities directly related to the Core to College grant. Each teacher will be provided \$1,000 to help support the purchase of resources to deliver the transitional courses during 2013-14. In addition, all travel expenses will be provided by the grant or SREB for teachers to attend the SREB training during July 2013 in Charlotte, North Carolina. It is expected that the teachers will be teaching the transitional courses as part of their regular teaching load.

We would like to set up a conference call for you to meet us and the teachers/principals from the other two school districts and to provide you with a brief overview of the transitional course pilot and expectations. In addition, we will answer any questions that you may have about the pilot. We will also ask for your initial reaction to the content of the transitional courses that can be viewed at the URL provided on the previous page. If there is a better way for you to provide feedback instead of using the rubric from SREB, we will welcome your suggestions. *Would you be available to participate in the conference call on Thursday, April 18, 2013 from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM?*

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the Transitional Course pilot. We look forward to working with you.

Cc: Jared Avery, Louisiana Board of Regents
Carolyn Sessions, Louisiana Department of Education
Shannon Domingue, GEAR-UP
Dr. Derrick Manns, Louisiana Community and Technical College System